

THE
BOOK
OF THE
RANKS AND DIGNITIES
OF
BRITISH SOCIETY

LATELY ATTRIBUTED IN THE PRESS TO
CHARLES LAMB

With an Introductory Note
by
C. K. SHORTER

Price five shillings net

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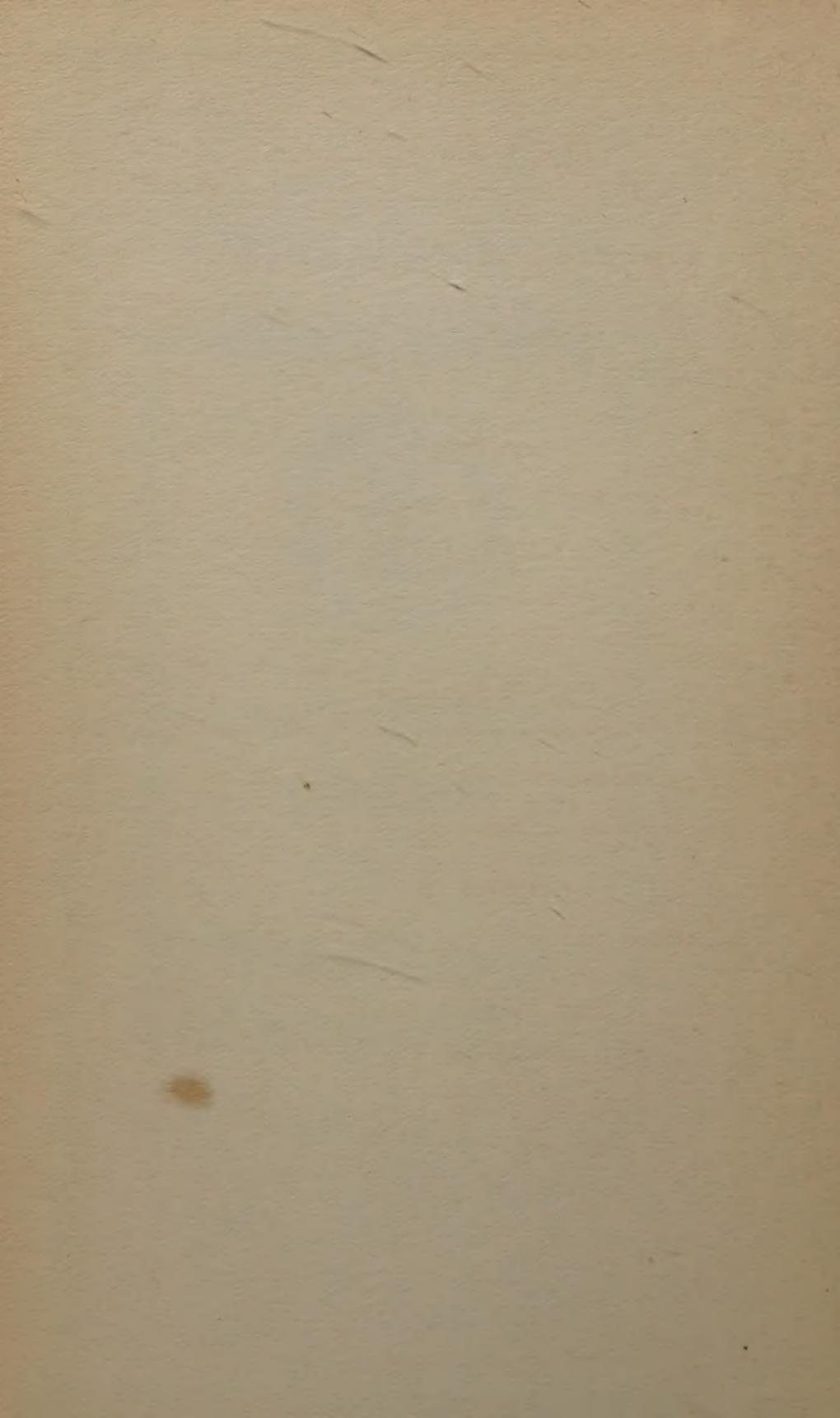


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RANKS AND DIGNITIES
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LATELY ATTRIBUTED IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE TO
CHARLES LAMB

Including an Introductory Note by
CLEMENT SHORTER

With Eight coloured plates and sixteen in monochrome

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CHARLES LAMB AND TITLES OF HONOUR

A HEAD-LINE which I find in a weekly newspaper "The long-lost Lamb found" is to say the least an exaggeration. The question as to whether this little "Book of the Ranks and Dignities of British Society" is by Charles Lamb can in all probability never be finally decided. It is sufficient for our purpose to claim that Lamb professed playfully or with truthfulness to have written just such a book. And in any case here is undoubtedly a literary curiosity well worth reprinting. It must always be associated with Lamb by virtue of his claim and the speculation to which it has given rise, and I gladly accept the invitation of Mr Jonathan Cape to tell the story of Lamb's contact or supposed contact with a quaint, old-fashioned book. To Preston in Lancashire and to a bookseller there, Mr Harold Halewood, belong the glory of the 'find.' In Mr Halewood's Catalogue for October of this year 1924 appeared the following 'item':

[LAMB (Charles)].—A Book explaining the Ranks and Dignities of British Society, intended chiefly for

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the instruction of Young Persons, with 24 coloured engravings, 12mo., uncut, London, at the Juvenile and School Library, 1809. £25.

This hitherto unrecorded item will be found mentioned in Lamb's letter to Thomas Manning, of January 2, 1810. "I have published a little book for children on titles of honour"

This catalogue came to Mr Gabriel Wells, a distinguished New York bookseller and publisher, who was spending the Autumn in London, and he promptly purchased from a London bookseller a copy of this little volume but of an earlier date—1805. He handed the volume to me, and I proclaimed his 'discovery' in my Literary Letter in *The Sphere*, printing there the famous letter of Charles Lamb to his friend Manning which has given occasion for the discussion as to Lamb's authorship. Here is the letter:

DEAR MANNING,—When I last wrote you, I was in lodgings. I am now in chambers, No. 4, Inner Temple Lane, where I should be happy to see you any evening. Bring any of your friends, the Mandarins, with you. I have two sitting-rooms: I call them so *par excellence*, for you may stand, or loll, or lean, or try any posture in them, but they are best for sitting; not squatting down Japanese fashion, but the more decorous use of the — which European usage has consecrated. I have two of these rooms on the third floor, and five sleeping, cooking, etc., rooms on the fourth floor. In my best room is a choice collection of the works of Hogarth, an English painter of some humour. In my next best are shelves containing a small but well-chosen library. My best room com-

mands a court, in which there are trees and a pump, the water of which is excellent cold, with brandy, and not very insipid without. Here I hope to set up my rest, and not quit till Mr. Powell, the undertaker, gives me notice that I may have possession of my last lodging. He lets lodgings for single gentlemen. I sent you a parcel of books by my last, to give you some idea of the state of European literature. There comes with this two volumes, done up as letters, of minor poetry, a sequel to "Mrs. Leicester"; the best you may suppose mine, the next best are my co-adjutor's. You may amuse yourself in guessing them out, but I must tell you mine are but one-third in quantity of the whole.

So much for a very delicate subject. It is hard to speak of one's self, etc. Holcroft had finished his life when I wrote to you, and Hazlitt has since finished his life; I do not mean his own life, but he has finished a life of Holcroft, which is going to press. Tuthill is Dr. Tuthill. I continue Mr. Lamb. I HAVE PUBLISHED A LITTLE BOOK FOR CHILDREN ON TITLES OF HONOUR: and to give them some idea of the difference of rank and gradual rising, I have made a little scale, supposing myself to receive the following various accessions of dignity from the King, who is the fountain of honour—As at first, 1. Mr C. Lamb; 2. C. Lamb, Esq.; 3. Sir C. Lamb, Bart.; 4. Baron Lamb of Stamford; 5. Viscount Lamb; 6. Earl Lamb; 7. Marquis Lamb; 8. Duke Lamb. It would look like quibbling to carry it on further, and especially as it is not necessary for children to go beyond the ordinary titles of sub-regal dignity in our own country, otherwise I have sometimes in my dreams imagined myself still advancing, as 9th, King Lamb; 10th, Emperor Lamb; 11th, Pope Innocent, higher than which is nothing. Puns I have not made many (nor punch much) since the date of my last; one I cannot help relating. A constable in Salisbury Cathedral was

telling me that eight people dined at the top of the spire of the cathedral, upon which I remarked, that they must be very sharp set.

But in general I cultivate the reasoning part of my mind more than the imaginative. I am stuffed out so with eating turkey for dinner, and another turkey for supper yesterday (Turkey in Europe and Turkey in Asia) that I can't jog on. It is New-year here. That is, it was New-year half a year back when I was writing this. Nothing puzzles me more than time and space, and yet nothing puzzles me less, for I never think about them. The Persian ambassador is the principal thing talked of now. I sent some people to see him worship the sun on Primrose Hill, at half-past six in the morning, 28th November, but he did not come, which makes me think the old fire-worshippers are a sect almost extinct in Persia. The Persian ambassador's name is Shaw Ali Mirza. The common people call him Shaw Nonsense. While I think of it, I have put three letters besides my own three into the India post for you, from your brother, sister, and some gentleman whose name I forget. Will they, have they, did they come safe? The distance you are at cuts up tenses by the root. I think you said you did not know Kate . . . —I remain, yours evers, CH. LAMB.

2nd January, 1810.

It is an admirable letter and its republication—I print here only half of it—would more than justify the interest in this ‘Lamb find’ even if it turned out a veritable mare’s nest, so little I imagine are Lamb’s entertaining letters read in our hurried age. There indisputably is Lamb’s statement “*I have published a little book for children*

on Titles of Honour." Was Lamb in earnest or was it merely the frolicsome Charles's playful way? I might be more inclined to believe the latter as does Mr Lucas, were not Lamb writing to a correspondent on the other side of the globe.

Lamb's letters have had four editors of distinction, and all have reprinted this letter. First came Talfourd, then Canon Ainger, followed by William Macdonald and E. V. Lucas. Serjeant Talfourd and Canon Ainger make no comment on Lamb's statement, Mr Macdonald has a note to the effect that "the book for children on Titles of Honour has not been found, but I am inclined to think it may have existed." Mr Lucas, writing two years later—in 1905—remarks in reference to Lamb's statement, "*this was of course an invention.*"

Thus the matter stood when a hundred years and more after Lamb's letter was written a book for children apparently corresponding with Lamb's description is as we see identified with Lamb in a bookseller's catalogue, and captured by clever Mr Wells of New York in the way we have related.

Mr E. V. Lucas, who has a right to be heard, for he is by far the most sympathetic and human of Lamb's many editors, sticks to his guns. In a letter to me he writes :

If you, having read the little book on *Titles of Honour* (as I have recently), can claim to have found any trace of Lamb's hand in it, I shall be surprised. You seem to have jumped to the conclusion that, because Lamb told Manning early in 1810 that he had published such a book, this, published in 1809, must be the one. Knowing what we do of Lamb, there is, of course, no necessity to look for a fact at all ; the circumstances that he had seen such a volume in a shop, or even an advertisement of it, would be sufficient incentive to play with the theme in his letter, as he does. But it is of course not impossible that between the preparation of the plates, which are dated 1805, and the year of publication, 1809, more than one author was invited to write the text (or write it as the publisher would like), and Lamb, known by his work for children for Mrs. Godwin's firm, may have been among them. To have been thus invited would equally be ground enough, in Lamb's case, sending nonsense to China, for the "matter-of-lie" remark, leading to the jokes that follow it. A whole book of Charles Lamb, containing only drudged information, dedicated to a princess, and marked by a total lack of every characteristic of his mind or sympathy for his young readers, is too unlikely an event for me to accept.

Mr Lucas did not know when he wrote that two separate editions of the book are in existence. But I agree with him in a measure, for a perusal of Lamb's delightful little volume

"The King and Queen of Hearts with the Rogueries of the Knave who stole the Queen's Pies"

reveals a humour which is far removed from the stolid matter-of-factness of this *Book of*

Ranks and Dignities. Moreover the “Fifteen elegant engravings” of Lamb’s smaller volume are very frivolous and the illustrations in the present volume are very serious. I am well acquainted also with those dainty little books which Lamb wrote for “the Juvenile Library of M. J. Godwin in Skinner Street.” Each was “embellished with three copper plates.” Six of them give the earliest form of *Tales from Shakespeare*. Assuredly there is no affinity between these merry trifles and our present ‘discovery.’

But there are two possibilities. In the first place it is perfectly clear that the book was first published in 1805. The edition of that year contains a catalogue of Phillips’s other publications. It is indeed, as my friend Mr William Roberts has pointed out to me, included in the list of new books in *The Monthly Magazine* for November of that year, as follows :

Educational. The Book of Ranks, describing the various stations of British Society, with 22 coloured Plates, price 7/- half bound. Phillips.

Of Sir Richard Phillips I have written with considerable copiousness in my *Life of Borrow*, for he is the publisher who comes so humorously into the pages of *Lavengro* and who described poetry to George Borrow as a ‘drug.’ “Goethe is a drug” he said.

He was an unconscionable scoundrel and perhaps his best portrait is to be found in a contemporary publication, the *Satirist*, which appeared in the days when libel actions were unknown. He had, however, a great deal to do with the publication of Lamb's books. He was always out for making money out of the struggling author. And there is no reason why Lamb should not have produced a matter-of-fact volume for this very seriously-minded publisher who had no sense of humour. Lamb would not have been proud of it and would not have been in a hurry to proclaim the effort. A letter to far off China on the appearance of a new edition might well be his only reference to such a 'pot-boiler.'

Let it also be borne in mind that in his letters to Manning, who was as he said in "the farthest ends of the world," Lamb was inclined to write about his literary projects "I have done two books since the failure of my farce"; he writes to Manning in 1808 "...the one is a juvenile book *The Adventures of Ulysses*...the other is *Specimens of Modern English Poets*." Lamb writes of these in a jocular strain and were they not known it would be equally reasonable to say they were non-existent as to throw doubt on the present volume. Only one other letter to Manning separates Lamb's

playful reference to the *Ulysses* of 1808 from his playful reference to the *Titles of Honour* in 1810.

I do not accept the evidence of style as final in the case of the authorship of an anonymous book. I have read too many 'pot-boilers' by the authors of really good books which I should have thought it incredible that they could have written if their names had not been printed on the title-pages. If Lamb had accepted a commission to write this particular 'pot-boiler,' he would scarcely have aimed at being funny. I repeat that his publisher would hardly have tolerated that. The dedication of it would not be by him. His name was not involved. But it is the very existence of the later edition of 1809 which makes one uncertain as to whether Lamb is not the possible author. In that year Lamb had become the centre of a wider public interest and many of his books were reprinted.

I have no wish to hold a brief for the book having been written by Lamb but I think that the controversy excited fully justifies its republication. In any case I cannot accept as final the idea that when Lamb wrote in 1810 of having produced such a book he was merely describing something imaginary and was as Mr Lucas suggests

playing round the fact that such a book was actually on sale.

There is, of course, a second possibility that Lamb did actually write one of the little volumes for children of the kind that I have described—but at present undiscovered. In any case I am pleased that this quaint and curious volume has been reprinted in its present form.

CLEMENT SHORTER



The King of Great Britain.

Pub. by Tabart & C° June 4 1805 New Bond St.

THE
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OF
BRITISH SOCIETY.

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With Twenty-four Coloured Engravings.

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TO HER

ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

PRINCESS ELIZABETH,

WHOSE TASTE FOR THE FINE ARTS,

WHOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LITERATURE,

WHOSE AFFABILITY AND BENEVOLENCE,

DO HONOUR TO HER EXALTED STATION, AND

AFFORD A MODEL FOR IMITATION TO

EVERY RANK OF HER OWN SEX,

THIS WORK IS HUMBLY DEDICATED, BY

THE AUTHOR

London, Nov. 1805.

BRITISH RANKS.

THE KING.

THE supreme executive power of these kingdoms, says Judge Blackstone, is vested by our laws in a single person, the King or Queen; for it matters not to which sex the crown descends: but the person entitled to it, whether male or female, is immediately invested with all the ensigns, rights, and prerogatives of sovereign power.

In the earliest periods of our history the crown appears to have been

B

elective. But hereditary succession has now been long established, and has proved a good preservative against that periodical bloodshed and misery, which both history and experience have long shewn are the consequences of elective kingdoms. The crown descends lineally to the issue of the reigning monarch, and not till the failure of the male issue is it allowed to be taken by the female.

Lawyers say the King of England is a mixed person, a priest as well as a prince; and at his coronation he is anointed with oil, as the priests and kings of Israel were, to intimate that his person is sacred.

The

The principal duty of the king is to govern his people according to law ; and these are the terms of the oath administered usually by the Archbishop of Canterbury, at his coronation, in the presence of the people, who on their parts do reciprocally take the oath of allegiance to the crown :

“The archbishop, or bishop, shall say, Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this kingdom of England, and the dominions thereto belonging, according to the statutes in parliament agreed on, and the laws and customs of the same ? *The king or queen shall say,* I solemnly promise so to do.

B 2 *Archbishop,*

Archbishop, or bishop.—Will you to your power cause law and justice, in mercy, to be executed in all your judgments? *King or Queen,* I will.

Archbishop, or bishop.—Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the gospel, and the protestant reformed religion established by the law? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of this realm, and to the churches committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain unto them or any of them? *King or queen,* All this I promise to do.

After

After this, the king or queen, laying his or her hand upon the holy gospels, shall say, The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep : so help me God. And then shall kiss the book.

One of the principal bulwarks of our liberty, is the certain and definite limitation of the king's prerogative, the extent and restrictions of which are marked out with the greatest clearness. But in the exertion of those powers which THE LAW has given him, the king is irresistible and absolute. He is considered by the laws of England as the head and supreme governor of the national church ; and, in virtue of this authority, he convenes, pro-
rogues,

rogues, restrains, regulates, and dissolves, all ecclesiastical synods or convocations. He has the supreme right of patronage over all ecclesiastical benefices; and if they are not presented to within the time prescribed, their lapse becomes the advantage of the crown. In regard to foreign concerns, the king is the delegate or representative of his people. He has power, by his prerogative, without any act of parliament, to make war or peace, conclude treaties, grant safe conducts, give commissions for raising and regulating fleets and armies, as well as for erecting, manning, and governing forts, and other places of strength. He can prohibit the exportation of arms and ammunition out of the kingdom,

dom, can dispose of magazines, castles, ships, public moneys, &c. ; and all that is done in regard to foreign powers by the royal authority, is the act of the whole nation. He has the sole power of sending ambassadors to foreign states and receiving ambassadors at home. He convokes, adjourns, prorogues, and dissolves parliaments ; and may refuse his assent to any bill passed by both houses, without giving his reason for it.

He may increase the number of members of either house at pleasure, by creating new peers, and bestowing privileges on other towns for sending burgesses to parliament : but the last has by late kings been given

given up. The sole power of conferring dignities and honours is entrusted to him: so that all degrees of nobility and knighthood, and other titles are received by immediate grant from the crown. And the king has also the prerogative of conferring privileges upon private persons; such as granting place or precedence to any of his subjects: such is also the power to enfranchise an alien and make him a denizen, and the prerogative of erecting corporations. The coining of money too, as well as the settling the denomination or value for which it shall pass current, is the act of the sovereign power. But to take all the characters into view in which the king is considered in domestic affairs,

fairs, would be almost endless; for from thence an abundant number of prerogatives arise. All lands recovered from the sea, gold and silver mines, royal fishes, &c., belong to him. He can unite, separate, enlarge, or contract, the limits of ecclesiastical benefices; and, by his letters, erect new bishoprics, colleges, &c. He can dispense with the rigour of ecclesiastical laws, except those which have been confirmed by act of parliament, or declared by the bill of rights. He has also power to moderate the *rigour* of the law, according to equity; to pardon a man condemned by law, except in appeals of murder, and in case of impeachment by the house of commons; and to interpret, by his judges,

judges, in statutes and cases which are not defined by law.

But though he be entrusted with the whole executive power of the law, yet he cannot sit in judgment in any court ; for justice must be administered according to the powers committed and distributed to the several courts.

As the king is declared to be the supreme head in matters both civil and ecclesiastical ; so no suit can be brought against him even in civil matters, because no court can have jurisdiction over him. The law also ascribes to the king, in his political capacity, absolute perfection. The king can do no wrong. By which
ancient

ancient and fundamental maxim we are not to understand, that every transaction of government is of course just and lawful; but that whatever is exceptionable in the conduct of public affairs is not to be imputed to the king, nor is he answerable for it personally to his people; and farther, that the prerogative of the crown extends not to do any injury. It is created for the benefit of the people, and therefore cannot be exerted to their prejudice. In the king, likewise, there can be no negligence, and therefore no delay will bar his right. In the king also there can be no infamy, stain, or corruption of blood. And the law ascribes a kind of perpetuity, or immortality to him. His
death

death is termed his demise, because the crown is thereby demised to another. He is not in law liable to death, being a corporation of himself that lives for ever. There is no interregnum ; but the moment one king dies, his heir is king, fully and absolutely, without any coronation, ceremony, &c. To these it may be added, that, by the law, the king is said, in a manner to be every where, in all courts of judicature, which he alone has the right of erecting, and therefore cannot be nonsuited. The power of issuing proclamations is vested in the king alone, considered as the fountain of justice. The laws make it high treason barely to imagine or intend the death of the king ; and because the destruction

tion of the king may ensue that of his great counsellors or officers, it is felony in any of the king's subjects to conspire even that.

Some things, however, there are which the king cannot do.

He cannot divest himself or successor of any part of the regal prerogative or authority. And, in particular, there are two things which he cannot do, without the consent of parliament—*the making of new laws, and the raising of new taxes.*

The king cannot dispense with the laws, nor do any thing contrary to law. In England the law is as much superior to the king, as to any of his subjects; and the obedience of a king of England to the laws, is his greatest glory, while it is the security

rity of the rights and liberties of his people, who are the greatest as well as the freest people on the face of the earth, merely because their sovereigns are obliged to live in subjection to the written laws of the land.

The title of *grace* was first given to our kings about the time of Henry IV., and that of *majesty* first to Henry VIII. The title of his present Majesty is, GEORGE the Third, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Sovereign of the Orders of the Garter, Thistle, Bath, and St. Patrick; Duke and Elector of Brunswick Lunenburg, Bishop of Osnaburgh, and Arch Treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire.

LORD

LORD CHANCELLOR.

THE Lord High Chancellor of England is the first lay person of the realm in all civil affairs, next after the king and princes of the blood. He is the chief administrator of justice in the kingdom ; and presides over the vast and extensive jurisdiction of the court of chancery. All other justices are tied to the strict letter of the law ; but the chancellor has the king's absolute power to mitigate its rigour, to govern his judgment by the law of nature and conscience, and to order all things according to equity.

The

The offices of lord high chancellor and lord keeper, by a statute of Queen Elizabeth in 1563, were made one. Till that time they were different, and frequently subsisted at the same time in different persons. The keeper was created by the delivery of the great seal ; but the lord chancellor was made by patent : though now that he has the keeper's office, the delivery of the seal is *his* appointment. By his office he is a privy counsellor, as well as speaker of the house of lords ; and superior, in point of precedence, to every temporal peer. To him belongs the appointment of all justices of the peace throughout the kingdom. He is visitor, in the king's right, of all hospitals and colleges of royal foundation ;



The Lord Chancellor of England.

Pub'd June 1805 by Tabart & C^o 157 New Bond Street.

dation ; patron of all the king's livings under twenty pounds a year in the king's books ; the general guardian of all infants, idiots, and lunatics ; and has the superintendence of all charitable uses in the kingdom. His twelve assistants, or co-adjutors, (of whom the master of the rolls is the first) are called masters in chancery.

In writing to the lord chancellor, the style of address is usually, *To the Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor*; and in conversation he is called, *My Lord*.

A DUKE.

DUKE is the highest degree of British peerage, and is derived from the Latin word *dux*, which signifies a leader or commander: noblemen being anciently either generals of armies in time of war, or governors of provinces in time of peace. In process of time, great estates being annexed to the title, it was held by lands or fees; and at last became hereditary and titular.

In England, in the Saxon times, the officers or commanders of armies, after the old Roman fashion, were called *dukes*, without any addition;

dition; but after the Norman conquest, the title was no longer used; till, in 1338, Edward III. created his son, who was first called the Black Prince, Duke of Cornwall: a title which has been ever since the peculiar inheritance of the king's eldest son, during the life of his father. After Edward the Black Prince, more were made; the earliest was Henry Plantagenet, son of the great Earl of Lancaster; and, after him, two other of Edward's sons, Lionel, Duke of Clarence, and John, Duke of Lancaster. The Black Prince was created by a wreath on his head, a ring on his finger, and a silver rod. Lionel and John of Gaunt were created, by the king, by girding on a sword, putting

on their heads a furred cap, with a circle of gold and pearls, and the delivery of a charter. From this period, we had many hereditary dukes created, though for ages the honour was but sparingly conferred, and seldom upon any that were not in some way allied to the crown. Of late years, the ceremony of investiture has been omitted, and the creation made entirely by patent.

According to Guillim, the following ceremonies were observed at the creation : “At his creation, a duke “must have on him his surcoat and “hood, and should be led between “two dukes, if there be any pre-“sent ; if not, a marquis or two, “and, for want of either, an earl :
“somewhat

“somewhat before him, on the right
“hand, shall go an earl, who shall
“bear a cap of estate, with the
“coronet in it; and on the other
“side shall also go an earl, who
“shall bear the golden rod; and
“before the duke that is to be
“created, should go a marquis, or
“one of the greatest estate, to bear
“the sword; and before him an
“earl, to bear the mantle, or robe
“of estate, lying on his arms. And
“all these nobles that do service
“must be in their robes of estate.
“His title is proclaimed twice, and
“the largess thrice.”

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth,
1572, after the attainder of the
Duke of Norfolk, the whole order
became

became utterly extinct; but it was revived about fifty years afterwards by her successor, in the person of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.

The dukes of our days retain little of their ancient splendor but the coronet on their escutcheon, which is the only mark of their departed sovereignty. By courtesy, their eldest sons are styled *marquises*, (though they are usually distinguished by their father's second title, whether it be that of marquis or earl) and the younger sons *lords*, with the addition of their Christian name. The coronets of the royal dukes are different from those of ordinary creation. The first have a circle

circle of gold bordered with ermine, heightened up with four *fleurs de lis*, and as many crosses patée alternately. The common ducal coronet is a circle of gold, bordered with ermine, enriched with precious stones and pearls, and set round with eight large strawberry leaves.

The mantle and surcoat which a duke wears at the coronation of a king or queen is of crimson velvet, lined with white taffeta, and the mantle is doubled from the neck to below the elbow with ermine, having four rows of spots on each shoulder.

His *parliamentary* robes are of fine scarlet cloth, lined with white taffeta,

taffeta, and doubled with four guards of ermine at equal distances, with gold lace above each guard, and tied up to the left shoulder with a black ribband.

Charles II. was lavish of this honour : he created two of his mistresses dutchesses, and six of their offspring dukes, beside nine creations of the ordinary kind. His present majesty has been more sparing : with the exception of the royal dukes, those of Northumberland and Montague have been the only ones distinguished by the honour ; beside admitting the claim of the Duke of Hamilton to the title of Brandon.

The



A Duke.

Pub. by T. & C. June 4. 1805. New Bond St

The premier duke of England, of ordinary creation, is the Duke of Norfolk.

In Scotland, the title was first introduced by King Robert III. about 1400.

The address of a letter is, *To his Grace the Duke of*; and he is called, *Your Grace, My Lord, or, My Lord Duke.*

MARQUIS.

MARQUIS.

MARQUIS (or, as it is now usually spelt, marquess) is a title given to a person in possession of a considerable demesne erected into a *marquisate*, by letters patent; holding a middle place between the dignity of a duke and that of an earl or count. The meaning of the title is supposed to be taken from a word which signifies *frontier*, and answers to the margrave of the Germans: the first marquisses being governors of frontier cities or provinces. Marquess is said to be originally a French title; and the first time we hear of it, is under the Emperor Charlemagne.

magne. In our own country, it was introduced by Richard II., who, in 1387, created Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, *Marquis of Dublin*: but with him it was a mere title of honour; for those who before governed the borders in the neighbourhood of Scotland were commonly called *lord marchers*, and not marquisses, as we call them.

The creation of a marquis was formerly with nearly the same ceremony as that of a duke; but they are now created by patent, under the great seal. The honour is of course hereditary, and the eldest son, by the courtesy of the land, is called earl or lord of a place; and the younger sons, only Lord *John*,
Lord

Lord *Thomas*, or the like. The title is, *most noble*: while the nominal marquis, the eldest son of a duke, is only styled *most honourable*. The coronation-robcs of a marquis are of crimson velvet, lined with white taffeta, and have four guards of ermine on the right side, and three on the left, set at equal distances, with gold lace above each guard, and are tied up to the left shoulder by a ribband. His cap is of crimson velvet, lined with ermine, having a gold tassel at top ; and his coronet of gold has pearls and strawberry leaves mixed alternately round, of equal height.

It may not be amiss to mention here, as an historical anecdote, what
we



A. Marquis.

Pub'd June 1805 by Tabart & C°: 57 New Bond Street.

we find in the parliament rolls of the fourth year of Henry IV. When John de Beaufort was from Earl of Somerset advanced by Richard II. to be Marquis of Dorset, and divested of that title by Henry IV., and the commons in parliament humbly besought the king to restore to him the name of marquis, which he had lost, he himself opposed it, and publicly declared this was a new dignity, and utterly unknown to our ancestors, for which reason he by no means desired it, nor would take it.

In writing to a marquis the letter is usually directed, *To the Most Noble the Marquis of*; and he is addressed in conversation as, *My Lord.*

EARL.

E A R L.

EARL, which now holds the third rank only among our titles of nobility, is the most ancient of any of the peerage; and the only title of honour now in use which existed previous to the Conquest. It is said to have been derived to us from our ancient forefathers in Germany. The Latin word is *comes*; and we are told by Tacitus, the Roman historian, that the Germans called those by a similar name who assisted the prince with their advice and authority. The Saxons, in this country, seem to have called them *ealdormen*; the Danes changed the name to



An Earl.

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to *eorlas*, honourable ; and time has since softened it to earl.

For a long time the name was given singly ; and, originally, the title died with its possessor : But after the Norman settlement, earls became feudal, hereditary, and patrimonial ; and though at first, if we may judge from the celebrated Doomsday survey, they were called simply Earl *Hugh*, Earl *Alan*, Earl *Roger* ; yet they were afterward created with the addition of some place, and had, according to our old law-books, the third penny of the county assigned to them.

The oldest charter (and that was the ancient method) of creation on record,

record, is one mentioned by Camden, from the Empress Maud, daughter of Henry I., to Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex. King John, however, introduced investiture by the girding on of a sword : and in the succeeding age, the putting on of a cap was added, with a golden circle.

In the more ancient times, there were no earls but who had a county or shire for their earldom ; but afterwards, the number increasing, they took their title from some eminent town or village, or even from their own seat or park : in many instances they have been derived from the names of illustrious families ; and in one or two instances from the kingdom

kingdom of France, as Albemarle and Tankerville.

Upon the increase of earls their revenue ceased, and their powers were much abridged; and it became a custom of the kings of England to assign a stated pension to the person whom he ennobled, for the better support of his dignity, out of some particular part of the royal revenue. In old times, the earls' creation-fee was twenty pounds.

An earl is now created entirely by letters patent. His coronation-robe is the same as that of a duke or marquis, except that he has only three rows of spots. His parliamentary-robcs too are the same, except

that he has only three guards of ermine and gold lace. His cap is the same; but his coronet has pearls pyramidically raised, and low strawberry leaves between them. His title is, *right honourable*. The present custom, that the person to be created earl, if he were not before a baron, should be made one, is modern, and was introduced in the time of Henry VIII.

A letter to an earl is usually directed, *To the Right Hon. the Earl*; and in conversation he is called, *My Lord*.

VISCOUNT.



A Viscount.

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VISCOOUNT.

WHERE the title of Viscount had its first rise has been disputed. Some have said in England: but it seems more probable that it was brought hither by the Normans. It was anciently the name of an office under an earl, *vice-comes*, who, being oftentimes required at court, was his deputy to look after the affairs of the county; and in our old law-books it signifies the same with sheriff. But in the reign of Henry VI. it became a degree of honour between an earl and a baron, and was made hereditary. The first viscount in England created by

patent, was John Lord Beaumont, who was by the above king created Viscount Beaumont, and took precedence above all barons. The creation, like that of all the other degrees of nobility, is now made entirely by letters patent.

The coronation-robcs of the viscount are the same as an earl's, except that the former has only two rows of plain white fur, which are likewise the distinction on his parliamentary robes. His cap is the same; but his coronet has only a row of pearls close to the circle.

The written address of a viscount is, *To the Right Hon. Lord Viscount* The oral address, *My Lord.*

BISHOP.

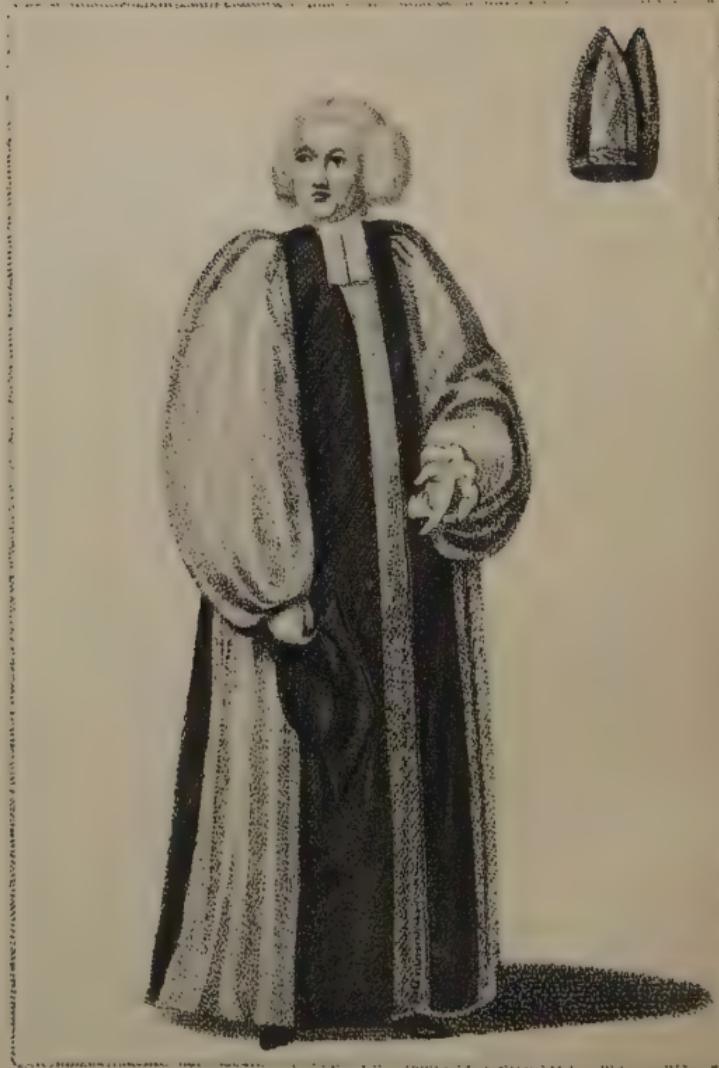
A BISHOP.

A BISHOP is a person consecrated for the spiritual government and direction of a diocese, and derives his name from a Greek word which signifies an overseer. In the earliest times, in this country, ecclesiastical dignities were confirmed by the king in parliament. Afterwards, contests arising between the clergy and their sovereign, it was frequently declared that bishops should be elected by the chapters of monks or canons in the different cathedrals: but by an act of parliament of Henry VIII. the right of nomination was restored to the crown.

How

How far we had bishops in the remotest times, is a question scarcely worth our enquiry. When St. Augustine came over to convert the English, he met with great kindness from Ethelbert, then king of Kent, and settled the metropolitan, or mother see, at Canterbury, where it has continued ever since.

Ordinarily, we are told, three bishops are required in the ceremony of consecrating a bishop; but in some cases one only may suffice. The king, being certified of the death of a bishop by the dean and chapter, and his leave requested to elect another, the *conje d'elire* is sent them, with a letter missive, nominating the person whom he would



A Bishop.

Pub by Tabart & C° June 4 1809 New Bond St.

would have chosen ; and the election is to be within twelve days after the receipt of it ; otherwise, the king, by his letters patent, appoints whom he pleases. After election, and its being accepted of by the bishop, the king grants a mandate under the great seal for confirmation. Then follows the consecration by the Archbishop of Canterbury, or some other bishop appointed by lawful commission, and two assistant bishops : the ceremony of which is much the same as in the Romish church, except that having put on the episcopal robes, the archbishop and bishops lay their hands on the new prelate's head, and consecrate him with a certain form of words. The fees of the whole process are said, in Chambers's

bers's Dictionary, to amount to about 600*l.* The process of translation of a bishop to another bishopric only differs in this, that there is no consecration. The age of a bishop is to be at least thirty years.

The bishops of England are all barons in a two-fold manner: and by a statute of the thirty-first of Henry VIII. 1540, take precedence next to viscounts.—They have the title of *lord*, and *right reverend Father in God*; and, besides the two archbishops, are twenty-four in number.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the first peer in Great Britain next the royal family: the Lord Chancellor

cellor is the next, and the Archbishop of York the third. They take place of all *dukes*; and the two archbishops have the title of *Grace*. The Archbishop of Canterbury writes himself, by *Divine Providence*; the Archbishop of York, and the other bishops, by *Divine Permission*. The bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester, have precedence of all bishops; the others, unless they are privy-counsellors, rank according to the priority of their creation.

A BARON.

A BARON, says Judge Blackstone, is the most general and universal title of nobility; for, originally, every one of the peers of superior rank had a barony annexed to his other titles. The most probable opinion of the origin of baronies seems to make them something similar to our present *lords of manors*; who about the reign of John became so very numerous, that the greater ones only were summoned by the king to parliament.

By

By degrees, the title came to be confined to the greater barons, or lords of parliament only, till Richard II. first made it a mere title of honor, by conferring it on divers persons by letters patent. The first who was raised to this dignity was John de Beauchamp, of Holt-castle, created baron of Kidderminster, in Worcestershire, 1387, who was invested with a mantle and cap.

A baron is usually made by patent, but sometimes by writ; being thereby called up to sit in the house of lords.

When a baron is called up to the house of peers by writ of summons, the writ is in the king's name; and he

he is directed to come to the parliament appointed to be held at a certain time and place, and there to treat and advise with his majesty, the prelates, and nobility, about the weighty affairs of the nation. The ceremony of the admission of a baron into the house of peers is thus: He is brought into the house between two barons, who conduct him up to the lord chancellor, his patent, or writ of summons, being carried by a king at arms, who presents it kneeling to the lord chancellor, who reads it, and then congratulates him on his becoming a member of the house of peers, and invests him with his parliamentary robe. The patent is then delivered to the clerk of the parliament, and
the



A Baron.

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the oaths are administered to the new peer, who is then conducted to his seat on the baron's bench.

The coronation-robcs of a baron are the same as an earl's, except that he has only two rows of spots on each shoulder. In like manner his parliamentary-robcs have but two guards of white fur, with rows of gold lace : in other respects, they are the same as the peers. The cap is the same as the viscount's. But the coronet, which was not granted till the time of Charles II., has six pearls set at equal distances on the chaplet.

A letter addressed to a baron is usually directed, *To the Right Hon. Lord*; and in conversation he is called, *My Lord.*

JUDGE.

A JUDGE.

By the long and uniform usage of many ages, says Judge Blackstone, our kings have delegated their judicial power to the judges of their several courts.

The judges are always chosen out of the serjeants at law, and are constituted by letters patent.* They are bound also by a strong oath to administer justice, and to determine all causes that may come before them according to the known laws

* Except the lord chief justice of the King's Bench, who is made by writ.

and

and customs of the realm, which even the crown itself cannot now alter, except by act of parliament. Formerly they held their places at the royal pleasure; but, that both their dignity and independence might in future be secured, and the administration of justice, if possible, rendered more impartial, a statute of King William III. ordered their commissions to continue during good behaviour; and likewise ascertained and established for them certain salaries. Though appointed by patent, they are to continue notwithstanding the demise of the crown: but, on an address of both houses of parliament, they may at any time be lawfully removed.

To

To strike them is punished in a signal manner by our laws. They are free from all prosecutions for any thing they may do in court which appears to have been an error of their judgment; but for wilful corruption they may be called to an account in parliament. It is the noble declaration of the English law, that, in criminal cases, where counsel for defence are not allowed, that the judge is always counsel for the prisoner, and is bound to see that the proceedings against him are legal and regular.

In their official capacities, the judges are invariably styled, *My Lord.*

THE



A Judge.

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A Serjeant at Law.

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THE SERJEANT AT LAW.

THE *Serjeant at Law*, or *of the Coif*, (as it is called) is the highest degree taken in the common law, as that of doctor is in the civil law. The *coif* is the serjeant's badge : it is of lawn, and is worn on the head, under the cap, both at his creation and afterward. Its use, originally, was to cover the crown of the head, which, as in ancient times, the clergy were the only lawyers, was always close shaved.

In conferring the degree great ceremony is observed. Those who are chosen make presents of gold rings to a considerable value, and

E generally

generally hold a sumptuous feast. In modern times, however, the expences of the latter have been much curtailed. Mr. Pennant says, that in 1531, eleven gentlemen, who had just been honoured with the *coif*, gave a grand feast at Ely-place, in Holborn, for five days successively. On the first, the king and his queen, Catherine of Arragon, graced them with their presence. The minutiae of the entertainment are not given us; but two or three particulars will easily suffice to convince us of its greatness. He enumerates, among other more extraordinary particulars, twenty-four beeves, or black cattle, one carcase of an ox, one hundred fat muttons, thirty-four large and ninety-one small pigs, thirteen

thirteen swans, and three hundred and forty dozen of larks.

Serjeants are called by the king's mandate, or writ, directed to them, commanding them to take the degree by a day assigned. They are bound, says Judge Blackstone, by a solemn oath to do their duty to their clients: and as they are supposed to be the most learned and experienced lawyers, there is one court set apart for them to plead in by themselves, called the Court of Common Pleas; because there the unwritten, (as it is termed) or common law of England, is most strictly observed: but they are not prohibited pleading in other courts; and the judges, who by custom must be serjeants, call them *brothers*.

BARRISTER AT LAW.

A BARRISTER is a counsellor learned in the law, who is empowered to plead, and defend the causes of clients in our courts of justice. They amount to the same in the English law as advocates in other countries, and are not admitted to the order till after a considerable degree of study or at least standing in the inns of court. To pass barristers, they were formerly obliged to study eight years, though now only seven, and sometimes fewer; and in our old law-books are looked upon, like the bachelors of our universities, as only learners, and not qualified to execute the



A Councillor.

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the full office of an advocate till they are sixteen years standing, when they are called to the degree of serjeant.

They seem to have been first appointed by an ordinance of King Edward I. about 1291.

A custom has sometimes prevailed of granting letters patent of precedence to such barristers as the crown thinks proper to honour with the distinction. These rank promiscuously with the king's counsel, and with them sit within the bar of the respective courts; but as they receive no salaries and are not sworn, are at liberty to be retained in causes against the crown.

All

All the others, whether serjeants or barristers, indiscriminately, (except in the court of common pleas, where serjeants only are admitted) may take upon them the defence of any suiters, whether plaintiff or defendant, who are therefore called their *clients*.

Judge Blackstone tells us it is established that a counsel can maintain no action for his fees; which are given as a mere gratuity, which a counsellor cannot demand without doing wrong to his reputation. And in order to encourage due freedom of speech in the lawful defence of their clients, it has been held by the lawyers that a counsel is not answerable for any thing he may say

say that relates to the cause in hand and is suggested by the instructions of his client; not even though it should reflect upon another, or after all prove absolutely groundless. Though as a proper check to those of the profession who may be inclined to be illiberal, or to prostitute that freedom which the law allows, it is determined that if a barrister mentions an untruth of his own invention, or even upon instructions, if it be impertinent to the cause in hand, he is then liable to an action from the party injured.

A DOCTOR

A DOCTOR IN DIVINITY.

A Doctor, simply so expressed, means a person, who, having been long engaged in study, and passed all the degrees of what is called a faculty in our universities, is empowered to teach or practise the same. The title is supposed to have been created in the university of Paris about 1140, and to have been introduced into England about 1207.

To be a doctor of divinity in Oxford, the candidate must have been a bachelor of divinity four years;



A Doctor of Divinity.

Pub by Tabart & C° June 4-1805 New Bond St.

years ; or at least, according to the regime of the university, it must be four years from the time when he was of standing to take that degree. In Cambridge, unless under certain circumstances, if the candidate be a bachelor of divinity, he must have been so five years.

In Oxford, during solemn assemblies, or processions of the university, the doctor's dress-gown is of scarlet, with wide black velvet-sleeves from the thickest part of the arm to the wrist ; it is without a cape ; but has a button and loop to secure the scarf ; and is likewise accompanied by the hood of scarlet cloth, lined with black silk. His cap, on such occasions, is round, of black velvet, and not much unlike

unlike in shape to that which is at present worn by his majesty's yeomen of the guard.

The ordinary gown is black, either of crape, silk, or prince's stuff; it is without a cape, and is exactly similar in form to that which is worn by masters of arts, except that it has a button and loop for the scarf which is only worn by doctors. The sleeves reach nearly to the ground, and are scooped away at the end, but have a cross slit about the centre to put the arms through.

The hood shewn in the engraving is the distinction of a doctor of divinity in both of our universities.

A CLERGYMAN

A CLERGYMAN in FULL ORDERS.

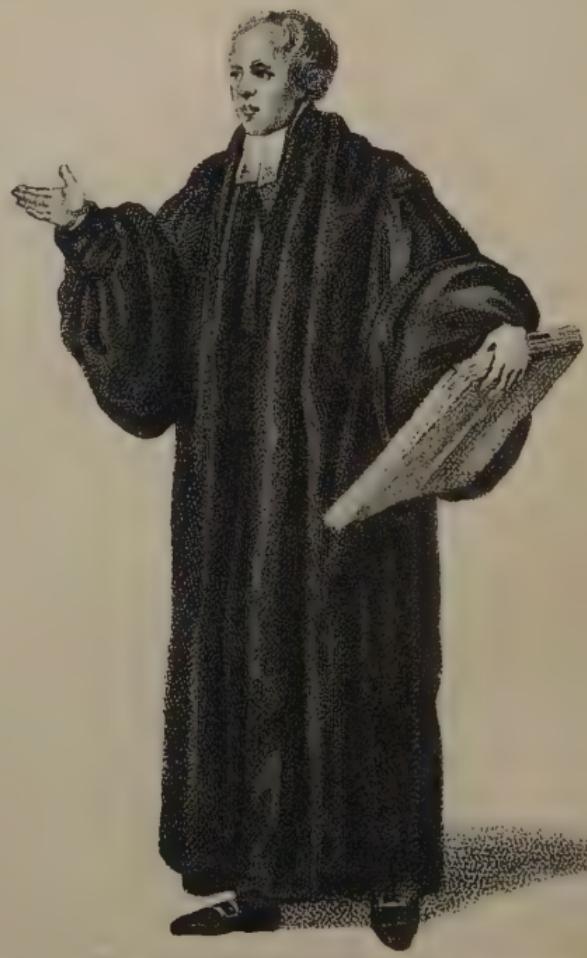
IN the general acceptation of the word, *priests* are any ministers of a church: but in the more particular one, it implies those who are admitted to the full or second degree of holy orders.

In conferring holy orders, the church of England preserves but two distinctions, while those in the Romish church were seven. The first degree is that of *deacon*. Deacons were originally instituted with no other functions than to assist the priest at the altar. By the regulations of the church, a deacon must
be

be of the age of twenty-three at his admission. He is allowed to baptize, to catechize, to preach, to assist in the administration of the sacrament, to solemnize matrimony, and to inter the dead ; but he can neither consecrate the sacred elements or read the absolution, these being the peculiar duties of the *priest*, or clergyman in full orders. Nor can a deacon, as such, be instituted to a living.

To be admitted to the ecclesiastical functions in their full extent, as well by the canons of the church as by an act of Queen Elizabeth, a man must be twenty-four. Though, anciently, when there were more degrees of holy orders in the church,

thirty



A Clergyman in full Orders.

Pub^d June 1805 by Tabart & C^o 157 New Bond Street

thirty was the age. The manner and form of ordination both for deacon and priest is annexed to the book of Common Prayer.

A prejudice was long entertained, that they who had only received deacon's orders might at any time throw off the sacred character; but of late years, when the clergy were no longer suffered to sit among the commons in parliament, its indeli-bility was confirmed by the legisla-ture.

The gowns which the clergy usually wear are different: some adopting those appropriate to the degrees they may have taken in the university, others wearing such as
they

they deem most convenient; but the generality adopting that as a preaching gown which is represented in the plate: from its fulness, usually termed the pudding-sleeve.

A N A D M I R A L.

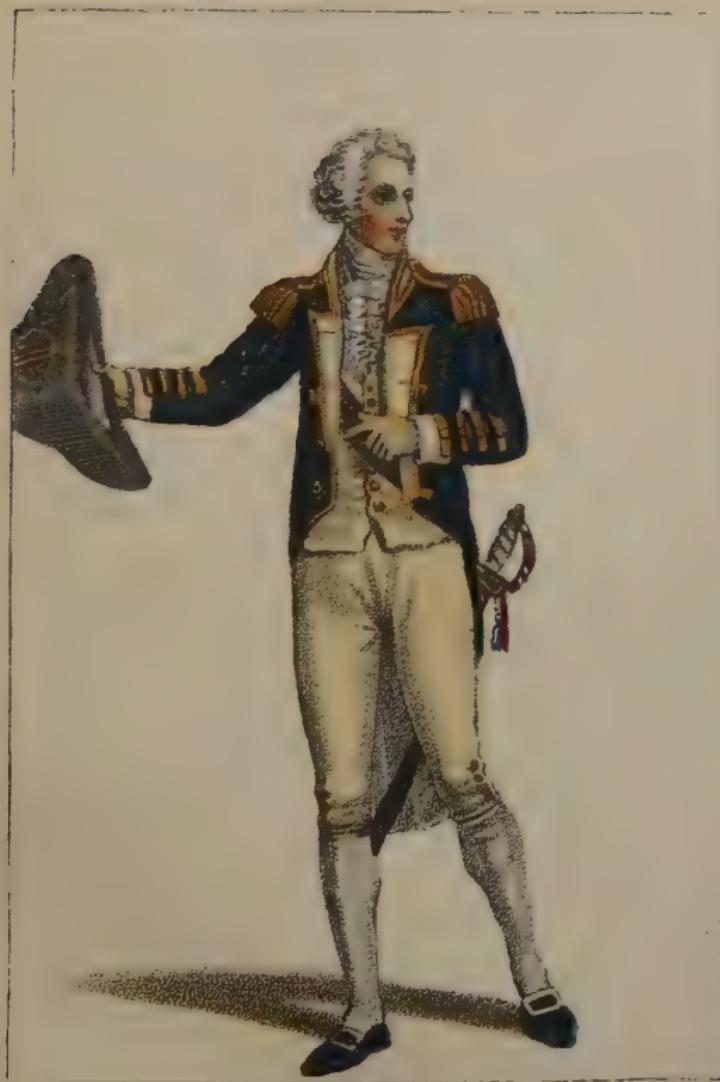
ON the origin and denomination of this important officer, whom we find, with some variation, established in most kingdoms that border on the sea, authors are divided. The Sicilians are by some said to be the first, and the Genoese the next, who gave the title to the commanders of their naval armaments; and it is affirmed they took it from a Saracen or Arabic term, that signifies a commanding officer.

The first admiral we read of in the English history is under Edward I. And the first title of Admiral

miral of England conferred upon a subject, was given by patent from Richard II. to the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, in 1387. His successors were afterward called lord high admirals, to whose care the whole government of the British navy was committed; and they were vested with a power not only to appoint sea-officers, but also commissioners, or judges, for exercising justice in the court of admiralty.

Prince George of Denmark, however, was the last who had the title of lord high admiral; the office is now put into commission, and the commissioners are styled lords of the admiralty.

An



An Admiral.

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An admiral, such as we have represented in the plate, is the commander in chief of a single fleet, or squadron; and is distinguished by a flag displayed at his main-top-mast-head. Thus we say, the admiral of the *red*, the admiral of the *white*, and the admiral of the *blue*. A *vice-ADMIRAL* commands the second squadron of a fleet, and has his flag set up at the fore-top-mast-head; and a *rear-ADMIRAL* the third and last squadron: he carries his flag at the mizen-top-mast-head.

F *A CAPTAIN*

A CAPTAIN IN THE NAVY.

AT the present day captains of ships are of two kinds ; the one of a ship of war, by whom we mean a captain in the navy : the other is only the commander of a trading vessel.

The rank of captain of a man of war is held equivalent to that of colonel in the army. He is accountable for the ship, if lost or taken by his misconduct ; and his province extends to the military government, navigation, and equipment, of the ship which he commands, and to the conduct of the inferior officers and men,

men, which he is required to superintend and regulate.

The pay of sea-captains in the English service was originally very small; but the defect was made up to them by many privileges which they are not now allowed, as plundering of prizes, taking what were called convoy-monies, and even carrying merchant-goods, plate, &c. King James II. taking this last privilege away, in lieu of it granted them an annual allowance of table-monies almost equal to their whole former pay. But this not taking place on account of James's abdication of the throne, King William III. in 1693 ordered the pay of captains to be doubled; but the fund even

for this failing at the peace of Ryswick, a new establishment was made in 1700, whereby nearly one third was retrenched from the sea-pay, and that of a first rate fixed at one pound, a second rate sixteen shillings, a third thirteen and sixpence, a fourth ten, a fifth eight, and a sixth six shillings a day.

A GENERAL.



A Captain in the Navy

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A General.

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A GENERAL.

THE General of an army is the chief commanding officer, whose business is to regulate the march and encampment of the army, to choose the most advantageous ground in the day of battle, to dispose the army, post the artillery, and send his orders wherever there may be occasion, by his aids-de-camp. At a siege he is to cause the place to be invested, to regulate the approaches and attacks, to visit the works, and to send out detachments for securing the convoy and for foraging.

But of this order there are three inferior degrees. These are *lieutenant-*

tenant-general, major-general, and brigadier-general.

A lieutenant-general is the next in rank to the commander in chief; and in battle the oldest, according to the date of his commission, commands the right wing of an army, the second the left wing, and the third the centre, &c.; and in sieges they command the right of the principal attack: one part of their function is to assist the general with their counsel.

The major-general is the next in rank: he receives the general's orders, and delivers them to the majors of brigades, with whom he concert what troops are to mount the guard

guard, what to go on parties, and what to form detachments, or to be sent on convoys, &c.; it is also his business to view the ground for the army to encamp on, and when it marches to place himself at its head. In sieges, if there are two separate attacks, the second belongs to him.

A brigadier-general is an officer that commands a brigade or division only of an army, and is only a general officer in his respective corps.

A *general of horse* is an officer next in command to the chief general, who has the absolute command of the horse of an army above the lieutenant-general. A *general of foot* has a similar power over the infantry.

A CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY.

A CAPTAIN of a company, or troop, is an inferior officer, who commands a company of foot, or troop of horse, under the colonel. In which sense we say a captain of dragoons, of grenadiers, of marines, of invalids, &c.

In the horse and foot-guards, the captains are styled colonels, being usually persons of rank, and general officers of the army. In the colonel's company of a regiment, that is the first company, or that whereof he himself is *captain*, the commanding officer is called *captain-lieutenant*.

The



A Captain in the Army.

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The duty of this officer is to be careful to keep his company full of able-bodied soldiers, to visit their tents and lodgings, to see what is wanting, pay them well, cause them to keep themselves neat and clean in their clothes, and to keep their arms bright. He has power in his own company of making serjeants and corporals.

THE

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

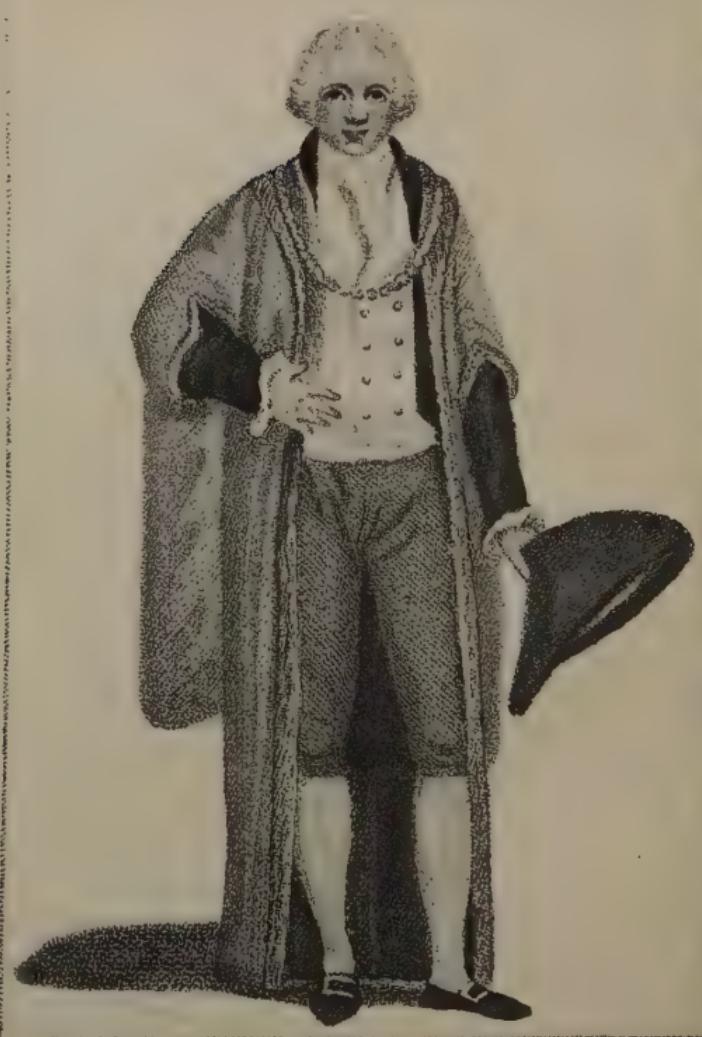
DURING the time of William the Conqueror, and till the reign of Richard I. the name of the civil governor of London was Port-reve, or Bailiff: but in 1189 it was changed to that of Mayor, and the first who held the office was Henry Fitz Alwyn. In 1197, the mayor was first vested with the conservancy of the Thames; but till 1345 the election to the office was not established on a regular plan. About 1354, it seems, the title of *Lord Mayor* was assumed; and in 1475 the mode of election still used, (by the master wardens,

wardens, and liveries of the city companies) adopted.

In the election of a lord mayor, says Mr. Noorthouck, all the aldermen under the chair, who have served the office of sheriff, are proposed in rotation, two of whom are to be returned by the common-hall to the court of aldermen, whose choice is limited to one of those two. It has been the usual custom of the livery to nominate the two senior aldermen under the chair; and the court of aldermen have usually upon the like example elected the senior of those two into the office; but that each of them have a right to deviate from this usual method, is indisputable: and in cases of particular dislike,

dislike, especially when the city has been divided into political parties, the order of rotation has been disregarded.

Although the office of lord mayor is elective, yet it may in some measure be said to be perpetual ; for his authority, unlike to that of all commission-officers, does not cease on the demise of the king. In such cases the lord mayor of London is said to be the principal officer of the kingdom, and takes his place in the privy council until the new king is proclaimed. His powers are very extensive : he is the king's representative in the civil government of the city ; first commissioner of the lieutenancy ; perpetual coroner and escheator



The Lord Mayor of London.

Pub. by Tabart & C° June 4-1805 New Bond St.

escheator within the city and liberties of London and the borough of Southwark ; chief justice of oyer and terminer, and goal delivery of Newgate ; judge of the courts of wardmote at the election of an alderman ; conservator of the rivers Thames and Medway ; perpetual commissioner in all affairs relating to the river Lea ; and chief butler of the kingdom at all coronations.

ALDERMAN.

AN ALDERMAN.

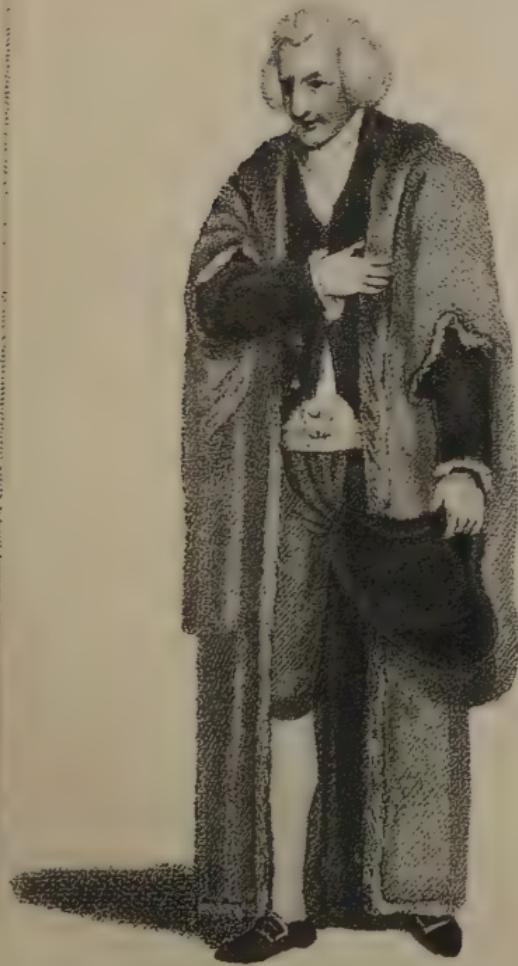
ALDERMAN, among our Saxon ancestors, was a title of nobility: ealdorman among them implied a man advanced in years, and accordingly supposed to be of superior wisdom and gravity. In the time of Edgar, the office was among the first in the kingdom.

In the present state of English *polity*, it signifies an associate to the mayor or civil magistrate of a city or town, for the better administration of his office. In our cities, as well as most of the municipal or incorporated

incorporated towns, the aldermen form a kind of council, and regulate things relating to the policy of the place. They sometimes also take cognizance of civil and criminal matters, but that very rarely, and only in particular towns. Their number is not limited, but varies in various places: in some it is six, in others twenty-six. Out of them are annually elected the mayors, or chief magistrates, who, after the expiration of their year of office, return again into the body of the *aldermen*.

THE twenty-six *aldermen* of LONDON are properly the subordinate governors of their respective wards, and originally held their offices either
by

by inheritance or purchase ; at which time the wards changed their names as often as they did their governors. The oppression, however, to which the citizens were subject from such a government as this, put them upon means to abolish the perpetuity of the office ; and by application to Edward III. in 1376, at the time he renewed the charter of his father, they brought it to an annual election. But this being attended with inconveniences, and becoming a source of perpetual contention, the parliament of 1395, in the seventeenth of Richard II. enacted, that the aldermen of London should continue in their several offices during life or good behaviour ; and so it still



An Alderman of London.

Pub'd by Tabart & C° June 4-1805 New Bond St.

still continues, though the manner of election has varied several times. By the first charter which Charles I. granted to the city, the mayor, recorder, such aldermen as had served the office of mayor, and the three senior aldermen, who had not been mayors, were constituted justices of the peace for the city and liberties. But in 1742, it was found necessary, for the more effectual administration of justice, to extend that power to the whole body of aldermen at large. They who have passed the chair, or served the office of lord mayor, are justices of the *quorum*, and all the other aldermen justices of the peace. They are exempted from serving inferior offices; and are neither put upon assizes, or serve on juries, as

long as they continue to be aldermen. When one of them dies or resigns, the wardmote chuse a successor, who is admitted and sworn into office by the lord mayor and court.

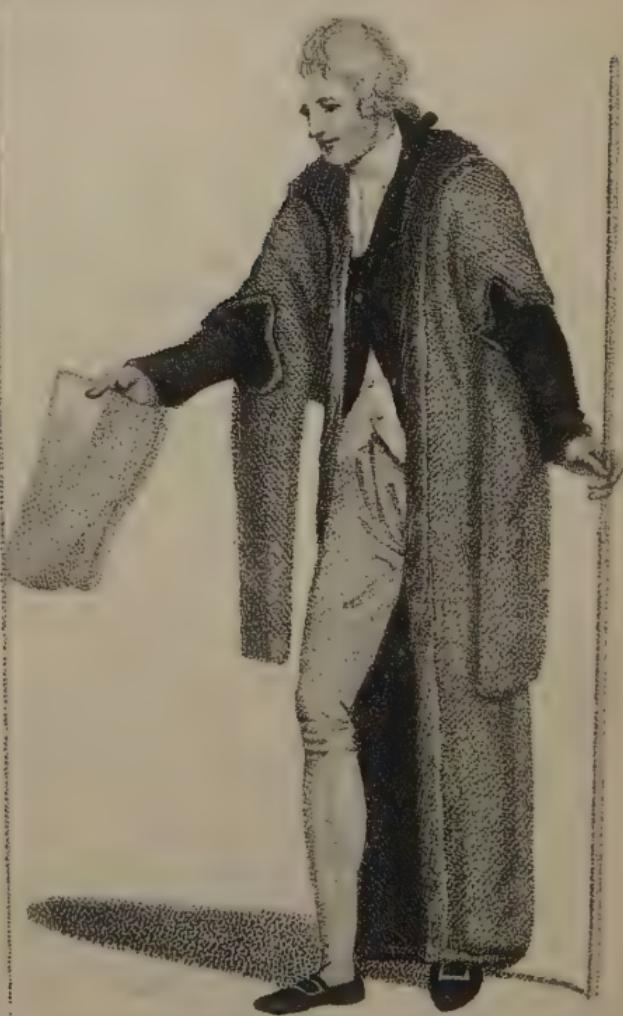
The court of lord mayor and aldermen is a court of record, wherein is lodged a great part of the executive power. All taxes, and other instruments that pass the city-seal, are executed by them ; the assize of bread ascertained ; contests relating to water-courses, lights, and party-walls, adjusted ; and the city-officers suspended, or punished, according to the notoriety of their offences. This court has not only a right of fixing their several taxes, with the approbation

bation of privy-council; but also a power of disposing of most of the places belonging to the city-officers, and of electing annually eleven overseers, or rulers of the fraternity of watermen.

A SHERIFF OF A COUNTY.

THE Sheriff is the officer to whom the king, by his letters patent, commits the custody of a county; and his chief qualification is the possession of sufficient land within the same to answer the king and the people in any manner of complaint.

Sheriffs were formerly chosen by the inhabitants of the several counties, though in some, as in Westmoreland at the present day, the sheriffs were hereditary. These popular elections, however, growing tumultuous, were put an end to by a statute in the ninth year of King Edward II.; which enacted that the sheriffs



Sheriff of a County.

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sheriffs should from thenceforth be assigned by the lord chancellor, treasurer, and the judges, as being persons in whom the trust might with safety be reposed. Other statutes also were made in succeeding reigns to regulate the election ; and the custom now is, which has obtained ever since the time of Henry VI., that all the judges, together with the other great officers, meet in the exchequer-chamber on the morrow of All Soul's yearly, (now altered to the morrow of St. Martin) and then and there propose persons to the king, who afterwards appoints one of them to be sheriff.

The sheriff is not only the governor, but may be likewise styled the
treasurer

treasurer of his shire or county. For it is his business to collect and pay into the exchequer the public revenues of his county, to levy the fines even by distraining, to attend the judges, to execute convicts, and to determine lesser causes.

An attorney, it is said, is exempt from the office of sheriff, because of his attendance on the courts of Westminster. Nor can any person be obliged to take the office during the time he is serving as a militia officer.

The sheriff, before he exercises any part of his office, and before his patent be made out, is to give security in the king's remembrancer's office

office in the exchequer, under penalty of 100*l.* for the payment of his proffers, and all other profits of the sheriffwick ; he must also take the oaths of allegiance and abjuration ; and all, except the sheriffs of Wales and Chester, an oath for the due execution of their office.

In his judicial capacity, the sheriff is to hear and determine all causes of forty shillings' value and under, in his *county*-court. He is likewise to decide the elections of knights of the shire, of coroners, of verdeors, or officers of the king's forests ; to judge of the qualifications of all voters, and to return such as he shall determine to be duly elected, but incapable of being

being elected himself for the county, &c., of which he is returning officer.

As the keeper of the king's peace, both by common law and special commission, he is the first man in the county, and superior in rank to any nobleman therein during his office.

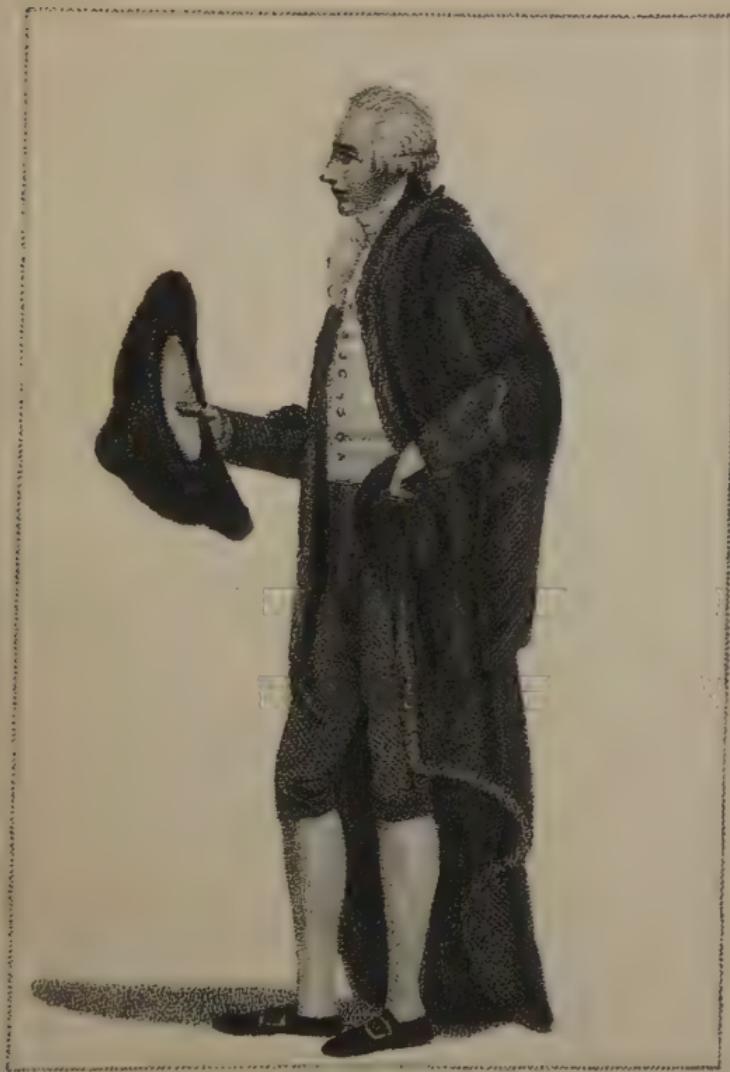
A COMMON-

A COMMON-COUNCIL MAN.

THE earliest mention of common-council men, as appointed to assist the aldermen in public business, is said to be in 1285, when the city of London, being divided into twenty-four wards, each ward chose certain of the inhabitants to be of council, who were regularly sworn into their office; and in 1384 it was ordained, that four of each ward should be chosen.

The common-council of London consists of two hundred and thirty-six deputies from the different wards of the metropolis, who are chosen annually, as the representatives of
the

the great body of the citizens, on St. Thomas's day ; and who, united with the lord mayor and aldermen, form the legislative body of the corporation. The court of common-council assembles in Guildhall, and their general business is to make bye-laws for the due government of the city, to the observance of which every citizen is bound : and they annually appoint committees out of their body for the management of different departments of the city's affairs : but the acts which they make are obliged to have the assent of the lord mayor and aldermen. The lord mayor may call courts whenever he pleases ; but he is obliged to call four in a year. The commissioners of sewers, the town-clerk,



Common Councilmen of London.

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clerk, and some other officers, are in the appointment of the court.

As an instance of the service they have sometimes done, it ought to be remembered that during the dreadful plague, in 1665, Sir John Lawrence held councils *daily*, that every necessary disposition for the public peace and safety might be made.

COURT DRESSES.

THE court dress for gentlemen is what is commonly called a full dressed coat, without collar or lappels, made of silk, velvet, or cloth, and often richly embroidered in gold, silver, or coloured silks. Any naval or military uniform is reckoned a full dress, though many regiments have, properly speaking, no full dressed uniform; those that have, cannot appear at court in the undressed uniform.

People are allowed to go to court in private mourning, except on the birth-days. Their uniforms, with a piece of black crape tied round the arm,

arm, are reckoned sufficient for officers in the deepest mourning.

Gentlemen not in uniform, wear what are called weepers in deep mourning, which are merely cambric cuffs, with broad hems turned back upon the sleeves.

The court-dress for ladies is now distinguished only by the hoop, lappets, and full ruffles; for the mantua is now made exactly like any other open gown, and differently in shape before, according to the fashion of the year: the petticoat also is plain or trimmed, according to the fancy of the wearer. The most general form is the one followed in the plate; of late, it has
been

been more the fashion to have the petticoat, both the drapery and the under part, of the same colour as the gown.; but a coloured drapery over a white petticoat prevailed for many years, and the drapery was even often of a different colour from the gown. Velvet, sattin, silk, crape, and gause, are the only materials allowed for ladies' court dresses ; the lappets are sometimes of black lace, but oftener the same as the ruffles of fine lace or blonde. Court dresses are trimmed, and often embroidered with gold and silver ; and artificial flowers are much used for ornamenting the petticoat. Feathers are not reckoned a necessary part of a court dress ; but young ladies very seldom go without them, and they
are

are supposed to be under dressed if they do.

In deep mourning, ladies wear a black hood, put on as it is represented in the plate.

Court mournings are worn by every body, according to the degree of relationship in which the person mourned for stood to his majesty.

The king never wears black, except on the day of King Charles's martyrdom : his mourning is purple, even with weepers. The queen wears the same mourning as other people.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen are all presented first to his majesty at the levee, and to her majesty at the following drawing room : they are generally presented by their nearest relation, who gives a card with their name, and the occasion of their being presented written upon it, to the lord of the bed-chamber in waiting. He names them to the king when they get up to him in the circle, on which they kneel down on one knee and kiss his hand.

To her majesty, the ceremony for gentlemen is the same, only that the card is given to her lord chamberlain.

Ladies were presented to the king
at



A Lady in a Court Dress
Pub. by Tabart & C^o June 4-1805 Bond St.^t



A Gentleman in a Court Dress.

Pub. by Tabor & C° June 1805. Bond St.



A Lady in a Court Dress.

Pub. by Tabart & C° June 4th 1805 Bond St.

at the same drawing-room, but before they were presented to her majesty; but since the king has gone so much seldomer to court, they have been presented first to the queen at a common drawing-room, and to the king at the birth-day following; and those invited by her majesty to the entertainments at Windsor, have been presented to his majesty there: in that case, they are not in court dresses, but the ceremony is the same. On their being named to the king, by the lord of the bed-chamber, they make a low courtesy, and he salutes them; but their right-hand glove should be off, as if they intended to take his hand to kiss.

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To her majesty, the ceremony of presentation for ladies is different according to their rank: all under the rank of right honourable kiss the queen's hand, making so low a courtesy as to have almost the appearance of kneeling; she salutes those who have that rank, though they equally have their glove off.

People are presented on different occasions: on first coming into the world, (which young ladies usually do about seventeen or eighteen); on their marriage, or any change of name; on going abroad, or to Ireland; or to an appointment to any situation about their majesties or the royal family.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen are also presented on obtaining a commission in the army; promotion in the army or navy; a place under government; or any high situation in the church or law.

The personal attendants on the royal family are presented in private to the one they belong to, and to the king or queen, or both, (if it is an attendant on any of the other branches of the royal family) at the levee and drawing-room.

The drawing-room generally begins about two o'clock, when their majesties come in; the king first, preceded and followed by his attendants; and the queen, led by her lord chamberlain, (or vice-chamber-

lain in his absence); her train led by a page of honour, and followed by the princesses, each led by one of her majesty's gentlemen ushers, or equerries: the ladies of the bed-chamber in waiting to the queen and princesses follow; then the maids of honour; and last, the bed-chamber woman in waiting on the queen. On the birth-days, the mistress of the robes, all the ladies of the bed-chamber, and bed-chamber women, follow in the train, those in waiting going first; the mistress of the robes usually takes her waiting on the birth-days, as the groom of the stole does his upon his majesty.

At the entrance of the drawing-room, the page resigns the queen's
train

train to the lady of the bed-chamber, who hangs it over her arm, and keeps it there during the whole of the drawing-room ; of course, she must then follow before the princesses.

The queen courtseys to the king on entering the drawing room, which she then goes round to the left, while he is doing so to the right ; and their majesties speak to every person as they get up to them. The page, gentleman usher, and bed-chamber women, do not follow the queen into the inner drawing-room, nor the ladies of the bed-chamber not in waiting ; and the maids of honour do not go round it with her, but stand altogether at one

one end till the drawing-room is over, when they follow her out, and fall into the train in their places in the outward drawing-room. Their majesties come and go through the levee-rooms.

Since there have been drawing-rooms so much seldomer, (only on every other Thursday) and that, of course, they have been so much more crowded, their majesties, instead of going round the room, have stood each with their back to a table between the windows, and the company have gone up to them. Any of the royal family coming to court, go in at the middle door, the company at one of the two side doors ; and since their majesties have stood still,

still, they should go in at the door next the windows, and out at the other.

There are three rooms in which those desirous of seeing the company go to court may stand, by obtaining tickets from the lord chamberlain : the guard-chamber, the royal presence-chamber, and the privy-chamber ; in the last only, they also see the king, queen, and royal family pass, as it is between the levee-rooms and the outer drawing-room.

The inward drawing-room is also called the great council-chamber ; and in it his majesty receives addresses from the houses of parliament, city, &c. when he sits under the canopy at the upper end. In
this

this room are also held the chapters of the different orders, and the royal children are christened.

For that ceremony, her majesty's state-bed of crimson velvet, lined with white sattin, and with a counterpane of point lace, is placed under the canopy : the mattresses are so placed upon it as to admit of, and be even with the seat of a chair, placed in the middle, in which the queen sits, superbly dressed in white and diamonds, but not in a court-dress. At the foot of the bed is placed a table, covered with crimson-velvet, trimmed with gold, on which stands the bason, ewer, &c. all of gilt plate ; the king stands on one side of this table, and the archbishop

archbishop on the other, with the sponsors, or their proxies, near him. All the branches of the royal family, with their attendants ; all who compose the king or queen's family ; the great officers of state, ministers, peers and peeresses, privy counsellors and their wives, and peers' unmarried daughters, are admitted, but no other persons, to this ceremony : all are in full court-dresses. The child is brought from the royal nursery, carried on a crimson-velvet cushion by the governess, and attended by the lord chamberlain, vice-chamberlain, the maids of honour, the gentlemen ushers, &c. : the sub-governess and nurse also attend.

The

The governess first carries the child up to her majesty, and then places herself with it at the bottom of the bed, near the archbishop : the maids of honour stand three and three on each side of the bed.

Before the christening the company are admitted to see the child in its state-cradle, of crimson-velvet and gold, which stands with a wire railing round it, under the canopy, in the canopy-room of the royal nursery : the governess, sub-governess, gentlemen ushers, &c. attending.

During her majesty's lyings-in, there are regular enquiries after her at St. James's, in what is called the queen's

queen's little drawing-room, where the lady of the bed-chamber, and bed-chamber women in waiting, two maids of honour, and one gentleman usher, attend to receive them, from one to three in the morning, and from seven to nine in the evening.

Cake and caudle are offered by the pages to the company in the queen's presence-chamber, where a page writes down the names of those who come to enquire.

At the king and queen's birthdays, the royal children, before they were of an age to go to a drawing-room, received the company who were desirous of seeing them as they came

came from court, in the queen's little drawing-room, attended by the governess, sub-governess, and one of her majesty's gentlemen ushers.

On the two birth-days, the archbishop of Canterbury, at the head of the bishops, come to congratulate her majesty in a speech fitted for the occasion. She receives them in her state bed-chamber, standing at the foot of the bed with the princesses, and the ladies of her own family standing round her, dressed for court. The bishops are preceded into the room by the lord or vice-chamberlain; and when the archbishop has made his address, the queen answers their congratulations in a short speech.

A SCOTCH

A SCOTCH HIGHLANDER.

HIGHLANDERS is a general appellation for the inhabitants of the mountainous parts of any country: but in Britain, the name is particularly given to those people who inhabit the mountainous parts of Scotland, to the north and north-west, including those of the Hebrides, or western isles. They are, probably, the descendants of the first inhabitants of Britain; and though in the remotest times they do not appear to have possessed that degree of refinement in sentiment and manners that is ascribed to them by some writers, they seem

seem always to have been a hardy, brave, and warlike people.

For a long series of years they enjoyed a king and governor of their own : but in 835, when Kenneth Mac Alpin, after having subdued the Pictish kingdom, transferred thither the seat of royalty, the country of the Highlands fell into anarchy and confusion. The petty chiefs began to extend their authority, to form factions, and to foment divisions and feuds between contending clans. *Klaan*, in the Highlands, signifies children ; and, at that period, every great family formed a civil government within itself, of which its head was the absolute prince. Hence sprung all those evils

evils which for so long a time disgraced the remotest parts of Scotland. Family made a systematic warfare against family: quarrels were handed down from one generation to another; and the whole clan were bound in honour to espouse the cause, whether right or wrong, of every individual who composed it.

The idea which the English entertained of them in the reign of Elizabeth, may probably be obtained from Camden. He describes them as a people tight-moulded, of great strength and swiftness, high-spirited, bred up in war and robbery, and extremely prone to revenge and deep resentment. They wore striped mantles,

mantles, he says, and thick long hair, and lived by hunting, fishing, and plunder. In battle, their armour was an iron head-piece and a coat of mail, and they used bows and bearded arrows, and very broad swords, and were divided into companies called clans.

Doctor Johnson, in his journey to the western islands, gives a strong proof of their attachment, or rather their blind veneration for their chiefs, so late even as the reign of George I. When the Scots first rose in arms against the succession of the House of Hanover, *Lovat*, the chief of the Frazer clan, was in exile. The Frazers were very zealous against the government. A pardon was sent to

to Lovat: he came to the English camp, and the clan immediately deserted to him.

After the rebellion of 1745, their arms, not even with the exception of the loyal clans, were taken from them by an act of parliament. The Highland chieftain, who had formerly been attended by a retinue wherever he went, having lost his military importance, now lost a great portion of his dignity; and in cases where his pride or his property have suffered injury, appeals no longer to his sword, but to the law. Since the disarming-act, not only the bows and arrows, but the broad-sword and the target have been laid aside; and, if

I

we

we except his dirk, the native Highlander walks about defenceless.

Among the Highlanders of very early periods the harp is said to have been used; but their chief instrument of music has been for ages, both in war and peace, the bagpipe. The particular music which is used in their dances, is generally known by the name of *strathspey-reels*.

The following summary of their habit is abridged from Mr. Pennant. Beside the cap, the dress of the men is the *brechan*, or plaid, twelve or thirteen yards of narrow stuff wrapped round the middle and reaching



A Scotch Highlander.

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reaching to the knees, often girt round the waist, and in cold weather covering the whole body, even on the open hills all night, and fastened on the shoulders with a broche; short stockings tied below the knee; *truish*, a genteeler kind of breeches and stockings of one piece; *cuoranen*, a laced shoe of skin, with the hairy side out, now very much disused; the *kelt*, or *fillebeg*, the little plaid, or short petticoat, reaching to the knees, substituted of late to the longer end of the plaid; and lastly, the pouch of badger, or other skins, with tassels, that hangs before them.

Precedency

Precedency of Men in England.

KING

Prince of Wales

King's Sons

King's Brothers

King's Uncles

King's Grandsons

King's Nephews

Vicegerent, when any such officer

Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Primate of all England

Lord High Chancellor or Lord Keeper

Archbishop of York, Primate of England

Lord High Treasurer

Lord President of Privy Council

Lord Privy Seal

Lord High Constable in Commission

Hereditary Earl Marshal

Lord High Admiral

Lord Steward of his Majesty's Household

Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Household

Dukes according to patents of creation

Marquisses according to their patents

Dukes' Eldest Sons

Earls according to their patents

Marquisses' Eldest Sons

Dukes' Younger Sons

Viscounts according to their patents

Marquisses' Younger Sons

Bishops of { London

Durham

Winchester

Bishops ... { According to seniority of consecration:
but if any bishop be Principal Secretary of
State, he shall be placed above all other
bishops, not having any of the great offices
before mentioned.

Barons

Barons ...	According to their patents of creation but if any baron be Principal Secretary of State, he shall be placed above all barons, unless they have any of the great offices before mentioned.
Speaker of the House of Commons	
Viscounts' Eldest Sons	
Earls' Younger Sons	
Barons' Eldest Sons	
Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter	
Privy Counsellors	
Chancellor of the Exchequer	
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	
Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench	
Master of the Rolls	
Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas	
Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer	
Judges	{ Of the degree of the coif of the said courts,
Barons	according to seniority
Bannerets	Made under the king's own royal standard, displayed in an army royal, in open war, by the king himself in person, for the term of their lives only, and no longer.
Viscounts' Younger Sons	
Barons' Younger Sons	
Baronetts	
Bannerets not made by the king in person	
Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Bath	
Knights Bachelors	
Baronetts' Eldest Sons	
Knights' of the Garter Eldest Sons	
Bannerets' Eldest Sons	
Knights' of the Bath Eldest Sons	
Knights' Eldest Sons	
Doctors of Divinity, Laws, and Medicine, of the English Universities	
Serjeant at Law	
Baronetts' Younger Sons	
Esquires of the King's creation by the imposition of a collar of SS.	
Esquires attending Knights of the Bath	
Esquires by office, as Justices of the Peace, &c.	Captains

Captains, and Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber, &c.
 Knights' of the Garter Youngest Sons
 Bannerets' (of both kinds) Younger Sons
 Knights' of the Bath Younger Sons
 Knights Bachelors' Younger Sons
 Gentlemen entitled to bear Arms
 Gentlemen by office, function, or profession
 Clergymen
 Attornies at Law, &c.
 Citizens
 Burgesses, &c.

Precedency of Women in England.

QUEEN

Princess of Wales
 Princess Royal
 Daughters of the King
 Dutchess of York
 Wives of the King's Younger Sons
 Wives of the King's Brothers
 Wives of the King's Uncles
 Wives of the Eldest Sons of Dukes of the Blood Royal
 Daughters of Dukes of the Blood Royal
 Wives of the King's Brothers or Sisters' Sons
 Dutchesses
 Marchionesses
 Wives of the Eldest Sons of Dukes
 Daughters of Dukes
 Countesses
 Wives of the Eldest Sons of Marquisses
 Daughters of Marquisses
 Wives of the Younger Sons of Dukes
 Viscountesses
 Wives of the Eldest Sons of Earls
 Daughters of Earls
 Wives of the Younger Sons of Marquisses
 Baronesses
 Wives of the Eldest Sons of Viscounts
 Daughters of Viscounts

Wives

Wives of the Younger Sons of Earls
Wives of the Eldest Sons of Barons
Daughters of Barons
Wives of the Younger Sons of Viscounts
Wives of the Younger Sons of Barons
Dames, Wives of Baronets
Wives of Knights of the Garter
Wives of Bannerets of each kind
Wives of Knights of the Bath
Wives of Knights Bachelors
Wives of the Eldest Sons of Baronets
Daughters of Baronets
Wives of the Eldest Sons of Knights of the Garter
Daughters of Knights of the Garter
Wives of the Eldest Sons of Bannerets of each kind
Daughters of Bannerets of each kind
Wives of the Eldest Sons of Knights of the Bath
Daughters of Knights of the Bath
Wives of the Eldest Sons of Knights Bachelors
Wives of Serjeants at Law, and Doctors of Divinity,
Law, and Medicine, of the English Universities
Wives of the Younger Sons of Baronets
Daughters of Knights Bachelors
Wives of Esquires, attendant on Knights of the Bath
Wives of Esquires by office, as Justices of the Peace
Wives of Captains, Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber, &c.
Wives of the Younger Sons of Knights of the Garter
Wives of the Younger Sons of Bannerets of each kind
Wives of the Younger Sons of Knights of the Bath
Wives of the Younger Sons of Knights Bachelors
Wives of Gentlemen lawfully bearing Coat Armour
Daughters of Esquires lawfully bearing Coat Armour,
who are Gentlewomen by birth
Wives of Gentlemen by office, function, or profession,
as Clergymen, Attornies at Law, &c. &c.
Wives of Citizens
Wives of Burgesses, &c.

THE END.

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